

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants thank Examiner Cintins for the helpful and courteous discussion of October 5, 2005. During the discussion the Examiner indicated that an amendment to the claims for clarity and to obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph may be entered pending an updated search.

Applicants submit the amendment to the claims obviates the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph with regard to Claims 7, 11-14, 23 and 26.

The Office objected to the term “the free amine functions” of Claim 29 as vague and indefinite. Claim 29 contains a product-by-process limitation that limits the claimed method according to the manner in which the resin, recited in Claim 1, is prepared. Page 16 of the specification provides a diagram (e.g., chemical structure formula) of an azacycloalkane that may be used in the invention. Each of formulas I-III include R_1 and R_2 groups. The R_1 group is a solid support. The R_2 group may represent a hydrogen atom. Therefore, in the azacycloalkane materials described on pages 15 and 16 of the specification, the nitrogen atoms that are not bonded to the solid silica support may be bonded to a hydrogen atom. The substitution is described in the paragraph bridging pages 24 and 25 of the specification. Thus, if an azacycloalkane is used in the invention, it may be first reacted with a silica support to provide an azacycloalkane having one or more free amine groups and one nitrogen bonded to the silica support. The free amine group (e.g., the N-H groups) may then be reacted with other chemicals to form, for example, a carboxylic acid function on the amine group. Applicants submit that the term “the free amine functions” recited in Claim 29 is not indefinite and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants submit the amendment and remarks above obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph of the Office Action of September 8, 2005. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and the allowance of all now-pending claims.

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